and upto 2010. It will not be in the interest of national security to disclose details of activities under the Military-Technical Co-operation between the two countries.

(c) to (e) The on-going contract with Russia on the cryogenic rocket engines is being implemented as envisaged in December, 1993.

Indo-Russian JWG on Military-Technical Cooperation

33. SHRI BNGARU LAXMAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether during his recent visit to Russia, both the countries have decided to set up a Joint Working Group on Military-Technical Co-operation;

(b) if so, the composition and terms of reference of the Joint Working Group;

(c) whether any meeting of the Joint Working Group has since been held; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV): (a) to (d) A Joint Working Group on Military-Technical Co-operation between India and Russia was set up in December, 1994 and not during the visit of Raksha Mantri to Russia in October, 1997. This Group is co-chaired by the Defence Secretary from the Indian side and consists of senior officers from the Department of Defence, Defence Production and Supplies, Defence Research & Development and the three Services Headquarters. So far three meetings of the Joint Group have been held both in India and Russia. The Joint Group is responsible to review the progress of the implementation of the Long Term Programme of Military-Technical Co-operation between the two countries.

Construction of road connecting Manipur and Myanmar

34. DR. MOHAN BABU : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Border Roads Organisation is constructing a road connecting Morah Town in Manipur with Kyigone in Myanmar via Tamu;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the length of the road, cost involved and the advantage that would accrue to both sides; and

(c) by when the road is likely to be completed and the share of cost to be borne by India and Myanmar?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) MEA has entrusted to BRO the upgradation/development of 160.525 Kms long Tamu-Kalemyo Kalewa road in Myanmar at a cost of Rs. 91.98 crores. When completed, the road will serve as an extension of National Highway (NH-39) linking Imphal with Morah. The road is expected to facilitate improved border management and security in the border area, control of drug trafficking, enhancement of land border trade and improvement of communications thereby providing for greater interaction between the people of the two countries in the long run.

(c) Road is planned to be completed by the end of year 2000 and funds for execution of this work are being provided by the Government of India in the Ministry of External Affairs.

सेवानिवृत रक्षा कार्मिकों के लिए समुचित चिकित्सा सुविधाएं

35. **श्री अजीत जोगी:** क्या रक्षा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार को इस बात की जानकारी है कि रक्षा कर्मियों को अपनी सेवानिवृत्ति के पश्चात् समुचित चिकित्सा सुविधायें प्राप्त नहीं होती हैं;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार का विचार विशेष रूप से सेवारत/सेवानिवृत्त रक्षा कर्मियों हेतु ऐसे स्थानों पर अस्पताल खोलने का है और जहां अस्पताल पर्याप्त संख्या में न हों; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है और यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं?

रक्षा मंत्री (श्री मुलायम सिंह यादव): (क) से (ग) जहां कहीं मिलिटरी अस्पताल उपलब्ध हैं उनमें भूतपूर्व सैनिकों को बाह्य रोगी/अंतरंग रोगी के रूप में उपचार की सुविधा प्रदान की जाती है। जिन मिलिटरी अस्पतालों में गंभीर बीमारियों, जैसे कि हृदय-उपचार, कैंसर, गुर्दा प्रत्यारोपण और घुटने के जोड़ बदलने के उपचार की सुविधा उपलब्ध नहीं है वहां पर भूतपूर्व सैनिकों को सशस्त्र सेनाओं की सामूहिक बीमा योजनाओं के अंतर्गत सिविल अस्पतालों में उपचार करवाने की सुविधा प्रदान की जाती है। उन्हें कल्याणकारी निधियों से भी वित्तीय सहायता उपलब्ध करवाई जाती है। जैसाकि लगभग सभी राज्यों में मिलिटरी अस्पताल उपलब्ध हैं इसलिए भूतपूर्व सैनिकों के लिए विशेष रूप से कोई अस्पताल खोलने की कोई योजना नहीं है।

Converting prime Defence land for other purpose

36. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that prime defence land meant exclusively for defence use has been allotted/converted for use other than defence needs in violation of the established procedure and practice;

(b) if so, the area of defence land converted for use other than defence purposes; the purpose for which the defence land has been allotted/converted; and

(c) the complusions under which conversion of the prime defence land was permitted?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) Any request for allotment of defence land for use other than defence purposes is considered and decided on merits of the case keeping in view the policy laid down by the Government. However, certain instances of use of defence land for other than strictly defence purposes like, for setting up of welfare centres, hostels, schools, shopping complexes etc. have come to the notice of the Government.

(c) No such permission has been given by Government which is violative of existing guidelines and rules.

Navy Project off Karnataka Coast

37. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a contract worth over a thousand crores of rupees for a Navy Project off the Karnataka coast has been stalled in order to favour a South Korean firm 'Hyunda' despite the fact that the firm was disqualfied by the Navy's Project Management Board and strong opposition from the defence forces thereby putting the country to a loss of over rupees two crores every month due to costs escalation; and

(b) if so, what are the compulsions in favouring a dis-qualified firm while ignoring the opposition by the defence force?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV): (a) No, Sir

(b) Does not arise.

Navy demands immediate replacement for INS Vikrant

38. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Navy has demanded immediate replacement for the decommissioned Aircraft Carrier INS Vikrant;

(b) whether Government have seen reports that China has build two naval